

**§ 2694. Conservation and cultural activities**

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Defense may establish and carry out a program to conduct and manage in a coordinated manner the conservation and cultural activities described in subsection (b).

"(b) ACTIVITIES.—(1) A conservation or cultural activity eligible for the program that the Secretary establishes under subsection (a) is any activity—

"(A) that has regional or Department of Defense-wide significance and that involves more than one military department;

"(B) that is necessary to meet legal requirements or to support military operations;

"(C) that can be more effectively managed at the Department of Defense level; and

"(D) for which no executive agency has been designated responsible by the Secretary.

"(2) Such activities include the following:

"(A) The development of ecosystem-wide land management plans.

"(B) The conduct of wildlife studies to ensure the safety of military operations.

"(C) The identification and return of Native American human remains and cultural items in the possession or control of the Department of Defense, or discovered on land under the jurisdiction of the Department, to the appropriate Native American tribes.

"(D) The control of invasive species that may hinder military activities or degrade military training ranges.

"(E) The establishment of a regional curation system for artifacts found on military installations.

"(c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may negotiate and enter into cooperative agreements with public and private agencies, organizations, institutions, individuals, or other entities to carry out the program established under subsection (a).

"(d) EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed or interpreted as preempting any otherwise applicable Federal, State, or local law or regulation relating to the management of natural and cultural resources on military installations.

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**R ECOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF  
ORGANOTIN.**

(a) MONITORING REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of the Navy shall, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, develop and implement a program to monitor the concentrations of organotin in the water column, sediments, and aquatic organisms of representative estuaries and near-coastal waters in the United States, as described in section 7(a) of the Organotin Antifouling Paint Control Act of 1988 (33 U.S.C. 2406(a)). The program shall be designed to produce high-quality data to

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